United Nations S/2016/140

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 February 2016
English
Original: French

Letter dated 11 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to the attention of the Security Council a situation reported by Refugees International, an independent United States non-governmental organization based in Washington, D.C., which operates in the border area between the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. After the cycle of wars that have characterized the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, this situation could risk once again plunging the area into unrest, violence and atrocities. The events described by Refugees International were also reported by the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo in their latest report of January 2016.

These two corroborating sources confirm that refugees from Burundi living in camps in Rwanda are being subjected to recruitment and are undergoing military training in the country's national parks, Nyungwe Forest National Park in particular. After the training, these refugees, equipped with weapons, are infiltrated into the Democratic Republic of the Congo through Uvira and Kanvinvira, with false Congolese voter registration cards to allow them to pass as residents of the country, before their infiltration into Burundi for the purpose of overthrowing the administration in Bujumbura.

The events reported above have already been brought to the attention of the Security Council by the Group of Experts and by Refugees International so that the necessary measures can be taken to consolidate peace and security in a region that remains fragile and in order to avoid aggravating the security situation in Burundi. It is important to stress to the Council that the security services of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which have apprehended several members of these refugee groups, have also confirmed these facts.

Given the foregoing, and denouncing the dishonest actions of Rwanda, which would like to shift the responsibility for destabilizing Burundi onto the Democratic Republic of the Congo, my Government believes that this situation violates the commitments made by the States of the region, in accordance with the provisions of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, which all States of the region freely signed. Such a violation thus needs to be denounced and must not be tolerated.

Please recycle

Consequently, my Government requests the Security Council to examine this situation, which is in violation of the Framework and international refugee law, and requests it to:

(a) Immediately condemn these actions, which are in violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and undermine the mandate given to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to combat armed groups and other negative forces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(b) Call on Rwanda to respect its international commitments and to cease recruitment and all subsequent operations without delay;

(c) Call on Rwanda to respect the civilian character of refugee camps and to stop recruiting minors on behalf of an armed group and sending them into the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(d) Call on Rwanda to work to promote peace and build a climate of trust conducive to cooperation in the region.

My Government requests the Security Council to pursue this matter and to circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ignace **Gata Mavita**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative